growing at 7-8% per annum on an average. DVB has met the highest ever peak demand of 2670 MW in summer of 2000. This demand was met by DVB from its own generating stations to the extent of 350-400 MW, from Badarpur Thermal Power Station in the range of 550-600 MW and from the allocated/unallocated shares from the centrally sponsored generating stations in the range of 1400-1500 MW. DVB had also entered into bilateral agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board for purchase of power to meet the demand during summer months (April-September, 2000). Power to the extent of 120 MW on an average was made available by HPSEB under this agreement. Further, in order to increase its own generation capability, Delhi Vidyut Board has awarded the work of 330 MW "Pragati Combined Cycle Gas Project" on Turnkey basis to M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited. The work on this project has already started. The first gas turbine is scheduled to be commissioned in January, 2002, second in March, 2002 and the complete project in November, 2002.

Comprehensive Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Earthquake Ravaged Areas of Gujarat

2515. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has finalised a comprehensive action plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction of earthquake-ravaged areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to construct earthquake resistant buildings in the areas which are more prone to earthquake; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

The Government of Gujarat would be finalising such an action plan.

(b) However, a comprehensive Action Plan has been drawn up to provide techno-financial assistance for a massive rehabilitation and reconstruction programme for the earthquake ravaged areas of Gujarat. The plan includes rapid assessment of the extent of damages to houses and buildings, financial assistance, dissemination of appropriate technology, establishment of building and community centres to demonstrate the use of disaster resistant housing including earthquake resistant technologies, adoption of villages and bastis for comprehensive development and setting up of HUDCO offices in Bhuj and Ajhar.

(c) and (d) The design of buildings is required to be carried out as per the building bye-laws of the respective States which should conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards norms and National Building Code. Housing being a State subject, Government have brought the recommendations of the Expert Group on disaster mitigation to the notice of all the State Governments. They were advised in May 1998 to modify their existing building bye-laws by incorporating earthquake safety measures for safer construction of buildings. The States have since been reminded to take action expeditiously.

Visits by Director of Printing

2516. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of visits made by the Director of Printing during the last five years in the country and abroad and the amount incurred on each such visit;

(b) whether he has submitted the inspection report to the competent authority after return from tour; and

(c) in what way Government have been benefited from the visits of Director of Printing?